

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /081 W
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R 040935Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2388
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0854

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, CZ
SUBJECT: FORMER CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY SECRETARY ZDENEK MLYNAR
REPORTEDLY SEEKING AUSTRIAN EMIGRATION

1. FORMER CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY SECRETARY AND PRESIDUM MEMBER
ZDENEK MLYNAR, ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF CHARTER 77, REPORTEDLY
IS DISCUSSING CONDITIONS OF EMIGRATING TO AUSTRIA, A FRIEND OF
MLYNAR'S TOLD THE PAO APRIL 1.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, A CZECH MEDICAL DOCTOR WHOSE
COUNTRY CHATA IS NEAR THE FORMER LEADER'S, MLYNAR, UNDER HOUSE
ARREST, SENT HIS WIFE TO THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY EARLIER THIS WEEK
WITH A MESSAGE FOR CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY, IN WHICH MLYNAR
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ASKED TO BE GIVEN A POSITION WITH THE AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF
SCIENCE AS AN ENTOMOLOGIST IF HE EMIGRATES.

3. AS A FURTHER CONDITION, HE WANTS TO TAKE WITH HIM SIX TO
EIGHT OTHER CHARTER SIGNERS, INTELLECTUALS INVOLVED IN '68
POLITICS, WHO WOULD FOUND A GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF EUROCOMMUNISM,
POSSIBLY IN AUSTRIA OR ITALY.

4. MLYNAR'S WIFE REPORTEDLY SAID HER HUSBAND BELIEVES THE CHARTER MOVEMENT HAS RUN ITS COURSE, THAT THERE WILL BE A SHORT PERIOD IN WHICH CHARTER ACTIVISTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE, AFTER WHICH A PERIOD OF ARRESTS AND FURTHER REPRESSION WILL TAKE PLACE.

5. THE AUSTRIAN DCM KARAS HAS TOLD US THAT THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS BEEN GIVEN SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION BY VIENNA TO EXPEDITE ISSUANCE OF EMIGRATION VISAS TO EIGHT CHARTER 77 SIGNATORIES, WHOSE CASES WERE DISCUSSED BY CZECHOSLOVAKS AND AUSTRALIANS EARLIER THIS YEAR.

6. IN MID-MARCH VEJVODA, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT WAS STILL PREPARED TO PERMIT A SMALL BUT UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF LEADERS TO EMIGRATE, NOTING THAT HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD TAKE PART OF THE LIFE OUT OF THE CHARTER 77 MOVEMENT.

7. WE BELIEVE MLYNAR'S CONSIDERATION OF EMIGRATING TO AUSTRIA REFLECTS A DEEPENING CONCERN AMONG LEADING CHARTER 77 ACTIVISTS OVER THEIR INABILITY, DESPITE WIDESPREAD FOREIGN SUPPORT, EITHER TO RALLY SUBSTANTIAL DOMESTIC BACKING FOR THEIR CAUSE OR TO NUDGE THE PARTY-STATE LEADERSHIP TOWARD GREATER RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. INDEED, THE REGIME HAS SIMPLY STEADILY TIGHTENED THE PRESSURE ON CHARTER 77 ADHERENTS IN RECENT WEEKS, WHILE MAINTAINING TOWARD THE REMAINDER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK POPULACE CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DOCTRINAIRE IDEOLOGICAL LINE IMPOSED UPON IT AFTER THE OUSTER OF DUBCEK IN 1969. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS A CONTINUING EXPECTATION IN PRAGUE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE CHARTER 77 GROUP WILL AGAIN TRY TO DRAMATIZE THEIR PLEA FOR GREATER RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE EVE OF THE BELGRADE 77 PREP TALKS IN JUNE.
FROWICK

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